Implementation of new food labelling rules

*115. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to defer implementation of new food labelling rules by another three months;

(b) whether Ministry had issued a draft notification regarding food labelling which was to be implemented by May 20, 2008;

(c) if so, whether Government has now decided to defer its implementation; and

(d) what are main reasons therefor and by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) A notification No. GSR 491 (E) on nutritional labelling of food articles was published on 21.8.2006. Due to the concerns raised by the industry in implementing different provisions of the notification and the attendant difficulties, the date of implementation of this notification was deferred and an expert committee was constituted to go into its different clauses. On the recommendation of the expert committee, a comprehensive draft notification No. 380 (E) was published on 15.5.2008 and comments from all the stakeholders were invited. After taking into account all the received comments, the final notification GSR No. 664 (E) for nutritional labelling of food articles was published on 19.9.2008.

The notification GSR No. 664 (E) dated 19.9.2008 will come into effect after six months from the date of publication, *i.e.* from 19.3.2009. This time period has been provided to meet the requirement of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement of WTO of which India is also a signatory. As this notification will have an impact on international trade, a mandatory minimum time period of six months was required to be provided for implementation.

Train protection warning system

*116. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch train protection warning system, that will eliminate human error *i.e.* signal passing at danger and over-speeding, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this system has since been tested successfully and installed on certain sections of the Indian Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the time-frame within which it would be installed on East Coast Railway and other Rail systems?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (d) Two pilot projects of Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) have been sanctioned. The pilot project on suburban section of Southern Railway (between Chennai Central & Gummidipundi) has been commissioned in May' 08 and performance is under review. The other pilot project on Delhi- Agra section of Northern and North Central Railway is under various stages of installation.

(e) The decision to install TPWS on other Rail Systems (including East Coast Railway) will be taken after evaluating the performance of above two pilot projects.

Cultivation of pulses

†*117. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area in which pulses are generally cultivated across the country;

(b) the area which is estimated to come under the cultivation of pulses during Kharif session in the year 2008-09;

(c) whether it is a fact that this year pulses have been cultivated only in 65 per cent area which would result in the shortage of at least 10 lakh tonnes in the production of pulses;

(d) whether it is also a fact that pulse sector has been overlooked in Green Revolution and its production is still stagnating at subsistence level; and

(e) whether there is any scheme under consideration to meet the scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The normal area under pulses is 224.60 lakh ha. including Kharif, Rabi and Summer.

(b) and (c) The area under pulses during Kharif season of 2008-09 is estimated at 88.44 lakh hectare which is 81.42% of normal Kharif area. However, prolonged rainy season in Kharif has brightened prospects of increase of 15 to 20 lakh hectares for Rabi pulses as reported by States. The contribution of Kharif and Rabi/Summer seasons to the normal production of pulses is 37% and 63% approximately.

(d) The production of pulses has increased from 83.50 lakh tonnes in 1966-67 to 151.12 lakh tonnes in 2007-08.

(e) Government of India is implementing various schemes to encourage cultivation of pulses as given below:

1. Integrated Scheme of Oilseed, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing States.
2. National Food Security Mission-Pulses launched in 2007-08 being implemented in 171 identified districts of 14 major pulses growing States with objective to enhance production of pulses by 20.00 lakh tonnes by the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
3. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme which provides assistance to the States not covered under ISOPOM.
4. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) under which States can undertake Pulse Development Programme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.